# Barst W Log



Lifelong Learning

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# **Boards**

Quarterly award winners

-4 and 5-

# Legal

Important information

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# Correct Pay

WG, WL, WS, WD, WN
-7-



Tune in on cable Channel 80

# Check out the Marine Corps Web site:

http://www.usmc.mil

or the MCLB Barstow Web site at:

https://www.bam.usmc.mil/



Photo by R. D. Ward

David Chu (R), Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, briefs reporters in the Pentagon on new policies regarding the frequency and length of involuntary mobilizations for National Guard and Reserve units, Jan. 19. Chu was joined for the briefing by Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources Lt. Gen. Emerson N. Gardner Jr. (L), and Director of the Army's Force Development Office and Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Stephen M. Speakes, U.S. Army.

# Force increase involves range of capabilities

**By Army Sgt. Sara Wood** American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – An increase in the active-duty military and changes to the policies for reserve forces announced this month by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates are aimed to increase the military's overall capabilities, a senior defense official said here Jan. 19.

"This build is about the whole range of capabilities that makes American military forces effective," David S. C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said at

a Pentagon news conference. "Particularly, it is designed to relieve the pressure on units that are described as 'high-demand, low-density,' meaning in plain English, there aren't enough."

Gates announced Jan. 11 that the active-duty Army and Marine Corps will grow by 92,000 troops over the next five years -- 27,000 in the Marine Corps and 65,000 in the Army. He also announced significant changes in the way reserve forces' mobilizations are handled. Notably, mobilizations for reserve forces will only be one year long and will be unit-based, and compensation will be given

to troops who are involuntarily remobilized.

By the end of this fiscal year, the Marine Corps expects to be at an end strength of 184,000 people, and will grow by 5,000 people a year until 2011, when it will reach 202,000, Chu said. The Army will be at 518,000 by the end of this fiscal year, and will grow by 7,000 troops a year until it reaches 547,000 in 2012, he said.

This increase in troops will come from in-service adjustments, such as military-to-civilian conversions, as well as recruiting and retention efforts, Chu said. He noted that all military services met their recruiting and retention goals last year and said that current efforts in those areas will be continued and expanded to account for the troop increase.

Chu noted that the military currently recruits about 300,000 people a year and that interest in military service among young people remains high. The challenge, he said, comes when parents, teachers and coaches who are opposed to military service influence potential recruits.

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Comments, questions or concerns filed with the base Interactive Customer Service Evaluation system are automatically routed to the service provider, and the service provider can respond directly. To access the ICE Web site, visit the MCLB Barstow Web site located at: www.mclbonline.barstow.usmc.mil and click the ICE logo.

It is the mission of the Lifelong Learning Center, "To provide efficient, professional, services in support of our customer's needs. We are committed to quality, enabling Marine Corps forces, tenants, and other customers to achieve personal enrichment, offduty education, and career development goals."

This week's ICE Article features a customers' comment after receiving the benefits of the LLC staffs' dedication in upholding their mission.

## **Customer Comments:**

This comment is for the education office. For the last two years I have been enrolled in military PME that without the help of Francis Villeme and Alisha Greva I could not have completed. They ensured the video training classroom's equipment was up and running on the appropriate scheduled training date.

In July, I completed a course and then signed up for on-line college classes just a few days before the sign-up deadline.

Once again, Villeme and Greva assisted me in not only finding an accredited college that accepts military credit and military tuition assistance, they also helped me in every step of the enrollment process.

They both should be commended for the customer service atmosphere they have created.

For more information about the services offered by the LLC, please call 577-6118

# Chaplain's Corner —

# Choosing death over life

By Lt. Tavis Long
Base Chaplain

In 1830, George Wilson sat in his cell in Philadelphia, Pa., waiting for the officials to come and carry out their duty. It was his time to die. Just a year earlier, in 1829, Wilson and his partner, James Porter, had been arrested, tried, and convicted of mail obstruction and murder.

The two had gone on a rampage, stealing mail from Kimberton to Philadelphia. During one of their excursions the two men kidnapped Samuel McCrae, a Philadelphia postal worker. In the process, McCrea was injured and as a result died a few days later. Wilson and Porter were found, arrested, and on May 27, 1830, both men were sentenced to death by hanging.

The date of execution was set for July 2, 1830. As that day drew nearer, some of Wilson's closest friends began a vehement campaign to seek a presidential pardon. But, no one petitioned on behalf of Porter and when July 2 came, he was sent to the gallows and to his death. But, it was different for Wilson.

On June 14, 1830, the sheriff came to Wilson's cell, holding a valuable piece of paper. A piece of paper that had writing

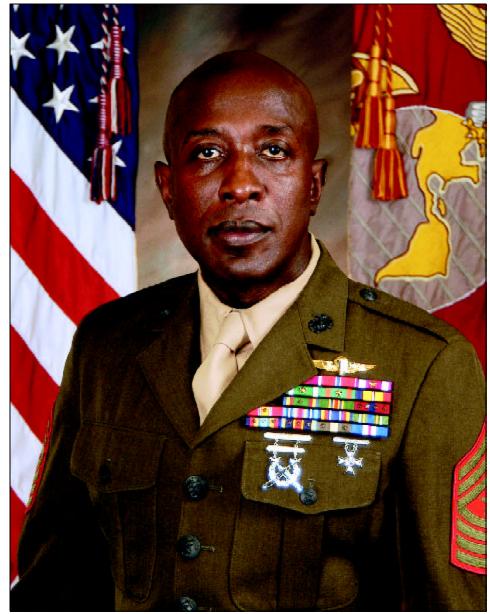
all over it, but all of the writing could have been summed up in one simple word— "GRACE"! The sheriff was holding George Wilson's presidential pardon.



For some reason, President Andrew Jackson listened to the pleas of Wilson's friends and was so moved by their sentiment that he issued a pardon to Wilson. The official pardon allowed Wilson to escape the death by hanging and was allowed to fulfill a lesser sentence of 20 years in prison. The pardon was drawn up and delivered to Wilson. As far as the president was concerned, Wilson was going to live.

However, something happened that was so completely strange. When the sheriff delivered the pardon to Wilson, Wilson refused to accept it. The sheriff did not know what to do, so he sent the pardon back to the president. President Jackson did not know what to do either. Never, in the short history of the United States of America, had anyone refused a pardon that would save their life. So,

See **CHAPLAIN** Page 8



New Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps named

File Photo courtesy of Camp Pendleton

Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent was named as the next Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps by Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway during a command visit to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Friday. Kent, who is currently the I Marine Expeditionary Force sergeant major, will become the 16th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, succeeding Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada who has held the position since June 2003.

Chapel Services Catholic Mass St. Joseph's Catholic Church 505 E. Mt. View Barstow Sundays, 7:30 a.m. Misa En Espanol 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. English Protestant Services Sunday 9:00 a.m. Jewish Services Call 252-0148 for more information

# Bars w Log

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California Colonel Kenneth D. Enzor, Commanding Officer

Public Affairs Staff

Public Affairs Officer: Bill Bokholt Public Affairs Chief: Gunnery Sgt. Shay Richardsor Public Affairs Specialist: Rob L. Jackson Barstow Log Editor: Cpl. Nich R. Babb Combat Correspondent: Cpl. Quentin Grogan Combat Correspondent: Lance Cpl. Josh Carmona The editorial content of this newspaper is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California. Mailing address: Commanding Officer, Attn: Public Affairs, Box 110130, Barstow, CA 92311-5050. The Public Affairs Office is located in Building 204. Phones: (760) 577-6430, 577-6450, 577-6451, FAX 577-6350, DSN prefix 282. This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of **BARSTOW LOG** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Marine Corps. **BARSTOW LOG** is published by Aerotech News, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Marine Corps, under exclusive written contract with Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California.

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BARSTOW LOC is distributed every Thursday (or Wednesday preceding a heliday) 50 weeks a year, BARSTOW LOC is produced at Aerotech News in

BARSTOW LOG is distributed every Thursday (or Wednesday preceding a holiday) 50 weeks a year. BARSTOW LOG is produced at Aerotech News in Lancaster, Calif. Printed circulation is 3.500.

For information on advertising in **BARSTOW LOG**, contact Paul Kinison of Aerotech News, phone: (661) 945-5634.

# **News Briefs**

# Military Mixer

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Community-Military Mixer will be held at the Veterans Home of California Barstow, 100 East Veterans Parkway, Barstow at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 6.

Advance tickets for civilians, military E-6 and above are \$15. Cost for military personnel E-1 through E-5 is \$10. Tickets at the door are \$17 except for "will calls."

Tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce, 681 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. (Harvey House) Barstow, Veterans Home of California-Barstow, the NTC/Fort Irwin Public Affairs Office in building 983, and the MCLB Barstow Public Affairs Office in building 204. Advance tickets should be purchased by Jan. 30.

For more information or to purchase advance or "will call" tickets contact the Barstow Chamber of Commerce at 760-256-8617.

Leave Sharing Program

Krista Perez has been affected by a medical emergency.

Anyone desiring to donate leave under the Leave Sharing Program may obtain a leave donor application through their department administrative office.

To donate or for more information, contact Johnnie Curtis 577-6734, Ramona Mendez 577-6396, Kelly Woodford 577-6638 or Margo Padilla at 577-7138.

# **Passports**

As of Tuesday, all persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling by air between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda are now required to present a valid passport, Air NEXUS card, or U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Document.

Under the proposed implementation plan, the following documents will be acceptable to fulfill document requirements:

- U.S. citizens may present a valid U.S. passport when traveling via air between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda, and may also use a U.S. passport when traveling via sea and land borders.

- The Passport Card is a limited-use passport, in card format, and is currently under development and will be available for use for travel only via land or sea (including ferries) between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. Similar in size to a credit card, it will fit easily into a wallet.

- The Department of State and Department of Homeland Security also anticipate that the following documents will continue to be acceptable for their current travel uses under WHTI: SENTRI, NEXUS, FAST, and the U. S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Document.

As proposed, passports for members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty traveling on PCS/TAD orders will be issued only when required by specific countries.

Any information regarding the requirement for passports and visas is available under the first section of each country, under the General Entry Requirements, Identification Credentials Required for Official Travel

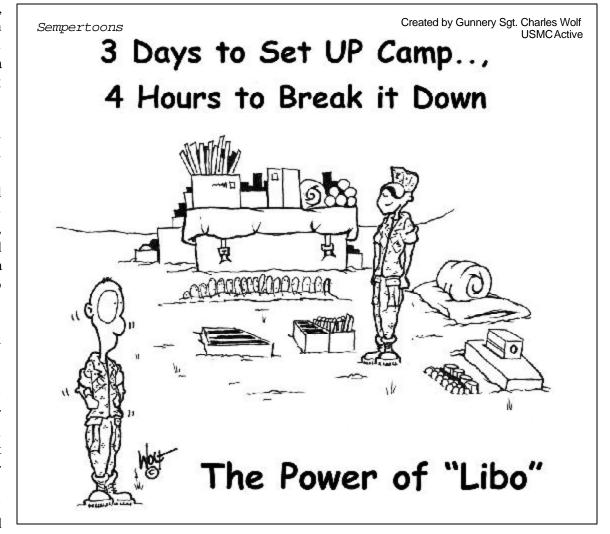
For more information, please contact 2nd Lt. Abigail Thompson at 577-6155.

## Road and Parking Lot Closures

Public Works is currently executing the contract for both street paving and parking lot repairs for Nebo and Yermo sides of the Base.

Repairs began Monday for the building 15 Parking Lot in Nebo and F-Street in Yermo. F-Street will be closed from 13th St. to 20th St. until Feb. 16. All damaged concrete pavement will be replaced with new pavement. Please use alternate routes.

This past Monday, Bldg. 15's Northeast and Northwest Park-



ing Lots will be closed for a crack sealing operation for two to three days. This will entail air cleaning the cracks and filling with tar-based slurry. Alternate parking areas and alternate routes will be in effect starting the date listed above. For questions or concerns, contact the public works officer, Capt. Teddy Gilmore at 577-6369.

# Co-ed Volleyball League

It's time for those interested in playing this season to get your teams together. There will be a meeting at the Base Gym at 4 p.m., Wednesday. The meeting is for anyone who wishes to play in the volleyball league.

In addition, anyone interested in officiating the upcoming volleyball season should contact James Amos.

For more information, call Amos at 577-6812.

## Motorcycle Riders Course

The class dates for the 2007 Basic Motorcycle Riders Course are Friday through Sunday, and Feb. 23 through 25. For more information on training requirements and class availability contact Cedric Baker, base safety office, at 577-6002.

# **Exchange Closure**

On Saturday, the Marine Corps exchange will be conducting its annual inventory. The MCX will not be open for business until approximately noon. Gasoline sales will be available by debit or credit card only.

Marine Corps Scholarship

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is looking for students who qualify for Academic Year 2007-2008 to receive a scholarship from \$500 to \$10,000 annually.

To qualify, you must be a child of a Marine on active duty, in the reserves, retired or deceased.

Or the child of an active duty, reserve, or former US Navy Corpsman who is serving or has served with the Marine Corps.

To obtain an application form, visit www.mcsf.org.

The deadline for high school seniors is March 1.

## Commissary Scholarship

The Defense Commissary Agency's scholarship for military children is now accepting applications for 2007. The \$1,500 scholarships are available for children of active-duty, retired, and Guard and Reserve service members.

Applications can be picked up from the base commissary and must be turned in by Feb. 21. The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2007, or can be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

# Editor's Note

"News Briefs" are designed to disseminate information to the MCLB Barstow community. Any submissions to be used in the paper should be received Fridays by noon for the following week's issue. Submit briefs via e-mail to BSTW\_PAOLIST@usmc.mil.

# K9 NCO takes a bite out of quarterly board

By Cpl. Quentin Grogan Combat Correspondent

Being a Marine means that you are a part of an elite fighting force. Standing out from your peers and being named the best, means you have excelled at being a Marine.

To close out 2006, Cpl. Michael Ciccolone, a military working dog handler, went out with a bang by being named the fourth quarter noncommissioned officer of the quarter.

Ciccolone, a Rochester N.Y. native, enlisted in the Marine Corps and later left for boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., June 24, 2003.

"I wanted to deploy, see combat, to get ahead in my life and also grow up a little bit," said Ciccolone.

Initially, he joined the Marine Corps as an infantryman, but after arriving at boot camp Ciccolone found out he was actually going to be a military policeman.

"When I arrived in Barstow, in February of 2004, and when I started my job I got real interested in it," said Ciccolone

In June 2004, Ciccolone attended the Military Working Dog Handlers Course at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

"In Iraq, the K-9 job is more fulfilling because we are saving lives and finding bombs and such," said Ciccolone.

Back aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Ciccolone and the rest of the dog handlers are a tight-knit bunch, as they sit in the office and crack jokes on each other.

Of all the dogs the dog handlers work with, there is one that sticks out, and the one Ciccolone teams up with, his favorite dog Rambo.

"My dog is great," said Ciccolone.
"I have handled all the dogs here and I like Rambo the most."

Of all the dogs, Ciccolone and Rambo work the best together, said Ciccolone. Also, Rambo has an advantage over the other dogs.

"[Rambo] has the hardest and sharpest teeth," said Ciccolone. Sgt. Courtney Hunt, kennel master, quickly acknowledged that also. On Nov. 3, 2006, Ciccolone reenlisted in the Marine Corps, but is unsure yet if he will make it a career or not.

"I just want to make it through my next enlistment first," said Ciccolone.

When it came to the board, Ciccolone prepared just like every other Marine. He studied knowledge, checked and rechecked his uniforms and practiced drill.

"I knew they were going to ask me the one question I didn't study," said Ciccolone.

The question; what is the nomenclature for the gas mask?

He was not alone though, Ciccolone had help from Hunt.

"I knew he was going to win," said Hunt. "He does a great job as a junior leader and he will be a great asset to



Cpl. Michael Ciccolone

the Marine Corps in the future."

"He depicts what a Marine NCO should be like today," said Master Sgt. Rick Jones, provost sergeant, who nominated Ciccolone for the board.

# Comm. Marine wins final 2006 MOQ board

By Cpl. Nich R. Babb Combat Correspondent

It is a well known fact that people make mistakes, and sometimes people have to pay for those mistakes. It is also a well known fact that people will either learn from their mistakes or not. The good thing about mistakes is that after someone makes one, it is not the end of the world.

Lance Cpl. Farhan Ahmed, telephone/cable splicer, outside cable plant, was named the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Marine of the Quarter for the final quarter of 2006, after he proved himself deserving of the title to a board of higher ranking Marines.

Ahmed's path to the MOQ title was not smooth and ideal though, he said. Earlier in the year, he was given a lesson from the school of Hard Knocks.

"With the help of my NCO, I was able to stay focused on my job and prepare myself properly, and I won the Marine of the Quarter. So, this is a big deal for me and other people to see," Ahmed said.

When it comes to pitfalls that affect a person's military career, Ahmed said there was no use in just quitting and not performing to the level of excellence that was expected of him.

"Lance Cpl. Ahmed goes above and beyond what is asked of him. He holds multiple billets, and is always completing work without being told," said Sgt. David Williamson, noncommissioned officer in charge, outside cable plant.

Ahmed attributed his success on the board to the advice given by Williamson, he said. The confidence he showed to the board members

was also a contributing factor.

"You can't be nervous, you just have to go in there confidently," said Ahmed.

Ahmed naturally has a competitive nature though, which he developed while focusing his efforts on his freestyle BMX abilities, he said. He also played basketball, and was on the track team for his high school in Plainfield, Ind.

Sports were not his only extra-curricular activities, and while in high school, Ahmed participated in an automotive repair business with a few of his friends, he said. It was during this time that he decided to attend WyoTech, a school for people interested in making a career in vehicle repair and modification.

However, before he left for college, a co-worker of his left the company and essentially caused the company to



Lance Cpl. Farhan Ahmed

disassemble, said Ahmed. "I had this tunnel vision of

being in the automotive

industry, but then this bad

See **AHMED** Page 7

# Policies, procedures change for base thrift shop operations

By Cpl. Quentin Grogan Combat Correspondent

For the volunteers of the thrift shop, providing a service for those who serve or have served is their main focus, when people drop off unwanted items that no one can use, it can become disheartening.

The purpose of the thrift shop is to provide a service by collecting useable items that have been donated that other people can use, said Pearl Brewer, thrift shop volunteer.

"It has come to the attention of the command that the privilege of the thrift shop has been abused," said Brewer.

So to reduce the abuse on the shop, some changes have been implemented so the thrift shop

can continue operating efficiently.

The thrift shop will no longer be accepting items such as tires, outdated electronics and large furniture like mattresses.

"In the near future all donated items will be brought in to the shop and only on days the shop is open," said Brewer.

That is because other changes are being put into affect, such as the drop off point behind building 204 will soon be shut down and closed.

"Don't donate anything you wouldn't use yourself," said Aileen Van Hovel, thrift shop volunteer

Recently the thrift shop has received items that they cannot use, items they think have been left to be thrown away.



Bags of donated items sit in the Thrift Shop's drop off area behind building 204. The drop off area will soon be closed, and patrons will no longer be able to donate outdated electronics or mattresses.

"The thrift shop is not a trash can," said Van Hovel.

To donate items to the shop. like clothes and small household items, people must personally bring them into the store during operating hours. The thrift shop is open Tuesday and Thursday

from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. It is vital to donate only items that are in good working condition, not garbage.

Also, the thrift shop will be cutting down on the types of donations they accept, for example no tires.

With a shop that's main function is to provide items to those who serve the country, it is pertinent not to take advantage of it to keep such a service available for future Marines and other service members who may need it.

# VITA provides free tax filing for service members

By Lance Cpl. Josh Carmona Combat Correspondent

Issues of the Barstow Log are neatly stacked on the coffee table at MCLB Barstow's Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, a businesslike silence permeates the walls like the waiting room of a doctor's office. The door opens, and the silence is broken by the words, "Good Morning, how may we help you today."

The SJA's office offers many legal assistance services and, specifically, income tax assistance during income tax season.

1st Lt. Samuel Londono, deputy staff judge advocate, wants to see more Marines file their income taxes with the assistance of the SJA's office, instead of filing their returns on their own. Londono said the SJA office only processed about 40 returns last year and would like to set a new record.

"We are here for the Marines to use. and if it's free, why not?" he said.

The Voluntary Income Tax Assistance program allows Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and their respective family members to have a professional file their income tax returns free of cost, instead of paying someone to do it, said Londono.

"We provide free tax filing service to active duty Marines, Sailors, Soldiers and their respective family members stationed aboard MCLB Barstow and Daggett Air Station," said Londono.

Although there are free online services available to service members, Londono says that using the SJA's office will alleviate the hassle of filing a return yourself and the risk of incorrectly filing your return, and being audited.

"All you have to do is come into the office, pick up a client intake sheet and schedule the appointment," he said.

Londono said the office provides the resources, training and ability to file taxes correctly. The VITA service will be offered from now until March 30.

# Annual Notification of Right to Representation

Pursuant to Section 7114(a)(2)(b) of Title V, U.S. Code, as amended by the Civil Service Reform Act (PL 95-454) this is to inform you that AFGE Local 1482 shall be given the opportunity to be represented at any examination of a bargaining unit employee of a management representative in connection with an investigation if:

- (a) the employee reasonably believes that the examination may result in disciplinary action against the employee; AND
- (b) the employee requests representation.

Esther V. Gonzales **Human Resources** Office Manager

# DoD Civilian Personnel Management Service (AW)

AC-0013R Arlington, Virginia 22209-5144 Issue Date: Dec. 28, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Federal Wage System Regular and Special Production Facilitating Wage Rate Schedules for the Los Angeles, California (LA) Wage Area. The schedules shown below have been established under authority of DoD Directive 5120.39, dated April 24, 1980, subject to the limitations contained in CPM 2006-18, dated 21 December 2006. Rates are established as required by 5 USC 5343(d), if applicable, and are to be applied in accordance with the provisions of 5 CFR Part 532 to all employees whose official duty station is located within the geographic boundary of the wage area definition shown on the reverse side.

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2	11.51	12.01	12.48	12.96	13.44	12.67	13.20	13.73	14.26	14.77		18.42	19.19	19.97	20.73	21.50			
3	12.96	13.50	14.03	14.58	15.12	14.26	14.85	15.44	16.03	16.62		19.86	20.70	21.52	22.35	23.17	1		
4	14.39	14.99	15.59	16.18	16.80	15.84	16.48	17.15	17.80	18.46		21.29	22.20	23.08	23.97	24.86	2		
5	15.85	16.50	17.16	17.81	18.47	17.42	18.14	18.88	19.59	20.32		22.76	23.70	24.64	25.59	26.55	3		
6	17.29	18.00	18.70	19.44	20.15	19.00	19.80	20.59	21.38	22.16		24.16	25.16	26.17	27.17	28.19	4		
7	18.66	19.45	20.25	21.02	21.80	20.56	21.40	22.26	23.12	23.97		25.47	26.54	27.59	28.64	29.71	5	1	
8	19.99	20.83	21.67	22.48	23.32	21.99	22.92	23.80	24.72	25.65		26.80	27.91	29.01	30.13	31.25	6	2	
9	21.29	22.18	23.07	23.97	24.86	23.43	24.41	25.40	26.36	27.36		28.08	29.25	30.46	31.60	32.77	7	3	
10	22.64	23.56	24.50	25.44	26.38	24.88	25.90	26.93	28.00	29.04		29.40	30.61	31.87	33.08	34.31	8	4	
11	23.85	24.87	25.83	26.83	27.84	26.25	27.37	28.48	29.58	30.62		29.97	31.21	32.48	33.70	34.97	9	5	
12	24.78	25.81	26.82	27.84	28.89	27.26	28.40	29.54	30.72	31.81		30.72	31.98	33.27	34.55	35.83	10	6	
13	25.68	26.81	27.84	28.91	29.99	28.29	29.48	30.62	31.82	33.02		31.64	32.96	34.27	35.60	36.91	11	7	
14	26.58	27.69	28.79	29.90	31.03	29.19	30.44	31.64	32.88	34.09		32.73	34.08	35.45	36.82	38.16		8	
15	27.51	28.62	29.78	31.00	32.13	30.24	31.52	32.74	34.05	35.30		33.87	35.27	36.66	38.08	39.49		9	
											<b>WS-16</b>	35.11	36.56	38.03	39.49	40.95			
	R. Craig Jerabek			Order Date: Sept. 12, 2006						<b>WS-17</b>	36.49	38.01	39.53	41.05	42.56				
	Chief			Effective Date: Nov. 26, 2006						<b>WS-18</b>	38.02	39.59	41.17	42.76	44.33				
	Wage and Salary Division			Supersedes Schedule Issued Dec. 30, 2005					<b>WS-19</b>	38.17	39.76	41.35	42.94	44.53					
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# **FORCE** from Page 1

"Our real challenge is convincing the American public, which views the military as its most respected institution, that military service is not someone else's job; it's everyone's job," he said.

The changes in policies for reserve forces are designed to reduce stress on a force that has been burdened greatly in the war on terror, Chu said.

"This is a high-morale force, a force that is willing to accept the challenging assignments the nation has given them," he said. "But we must be judicious in how we use this force. So the secretary has reinforced our objectives for the deployments people can expect, versus the rest they can expect."

For reserve forces, the Defense Department's goal is to

deploy units one year out of every six; for active-duty forces, the goal is one year out of every three. When reserve forces are mobilized, their mobilization will be limited to one year, including training, and will be unit-based, as opposed to relying on individual volunteers, Chu said.

Currently, reserve forces spend about 18 months mobilized, using the six months at the beginning for training. This shorter mobilization will require units to stay at a higher level of readiness while they're not deployed, but that will be helped by the fact that they will always operate as a unit and will have a more predictable schedule, Chu said.

"The readiness standards to deploy will remain the same," he said. "The units need to be able to do their jobs; the people need to be skilled in their responsibilities. What this will require is a set of changes in how we get them ready, and that will require adjustments in how reserve units train and prepare."

Gates is focused on keeping the number of involuntary repeat mobilizations as low as possible, Chu said, but circumstances on the ground could dictate otherwise. DoD is developing compensation packages for troops who are deployed significantly sooner than they should be under the department's new goals, he said.

"We need to demonstrate that we understand that we have imposed on you, your family and your employer a significant burden," he said. "You may have accepted that burden, but we need to compensate you for it." The details of this compensation have not been finalized, and the cost for the troop increase and changes to reserve policies will be included in the president's budget, which will be submitted in February, Chu said.

# **AHMED** from Page 5

event happened to me and it opened up my eyes," Ahmed explained.

He said before he went off to college and around the time of his company's dismantlement, a friend of his had returned from Marine Corps basic training. Ahmed saw the changes and improvements that his friend had made, and he knew that the Corps was where he wanted to be.

Originally Ahmed had asked

for an intelligence military occupational specialty, but since his main goal was to get out of Indiana, he settled for a communications MOS. Three weeks after enlisting, he was on his way to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

After graduating from basic training and MOS school at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, Ahmed received orders to MCLB Barstow. When he got here, he was shocked to even know that there was a base with Marines here.

Even despite having a rough beginning during his term of enlistment, Ahmed was able to stay motivated and take the MOQ board, he said. Also, winning the board was a big deal for him and for many people he knows, and he's glad he was able to earn this prestigious award.

# Barsww Log

# **CHAPLAIN** from Page 2

Jackson sent the matter to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court was perplexed by the situation themselves, and on Oct. 24, 1830, called George Wilson in to testify as to the reasons for his decision. Wilson was asked if he had anything to say regarding his crimes and he did not have anything to say. When asked if he wanted to accept the pardon, to this also he just quietly declined without giving any reason. Therefore, the Supreme Court deliberated to discuss the matter. In the end, they decided that if Wilson wanted to carry out his sentence he could do so.

A few weeks later, on a wintry Pennsylvania day, George Wilson died at the end of a noose while the pardon that would have saved his life still lay on the president's desk. He died because he had rejected the

grace—that unmerited favor that was offered to him.

For three years after Wilson's execution, the Supreme Court discussed this unique and absurd case. Finally, in 1833, Chief Justice John Marshall explained that since a pardon is "An act of grace, proceeding from the power entrusted with the execution of the laws, which exempts the individual, on whom it is bestowed, from the punishment the law inflicts for a crime he has committed," then Wilson had every right to refuse that

Wilson's story is tragic indeed. But, it seems that so many people are doing the same thing by playing roulette with their spiritual lives. God's grace—the pardon for their souls—has been offered and yet they refuse that grace. Did you know that the Bible says in Hebrews 9:27, that it "is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment,"?

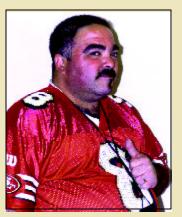
We are all, regardless of race, color, or religion, going to stand before God in judgment. The

question is: "Have you accepted the pardon?" Romans 6:23 explains this spiritual pardon. It says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." God has granted us all a pardon from our wickedness. However, you, too, can choose to accept or reject that pardon. Let me close with one last verse of Scripture.

It is found in Deuteronomy 30:19. Moses is giving his final words of instruction to the Israelites before they enter Canaan. While his words have a context all their own, they fit very well into the context of our spiritual lives. He said, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life."

# **Gunny's Picks**

Conference Championship Winner



Congratulations to Rick Moya, of Fleet Support Division, on his conference championship weekend win. As you may or may not remember, Moya went 14 - 0 on his picks back in Week 6 and has been trying ever since to get back in the paper. The 49er fan finally made it by going 2 - 0 during the conference championship games.

Word has it that Moya will be going with Da' Bears over Peyton Manning and the Colts; we shall see. Although Chicago has a very stout defense, the Colt's are hungrier than ever to win the big one, especially since they managed to finally overcome the Patriots.

Another great season has come to a close and the Gunny would like to thank all of those who have participated this year, and look forward to doing it again next year. Have fun during Super Bowl XLI.



## Texas Hold' Em Poker

Don't forget Friday is the first official Texas Hold Em Poker Tourney for 2007. If you missed that last day of sign ups it may still be possible to play, call 577-5893 for more information. The Texas Hold' Em Poker Tournament starts at 5:30 p.m. with a minimum number of 25 players and a \$20 buy in that must be paid by close of business today. All MCLB patrons and their guests over the age of 21 are invited to attend. For more information or if you have any questions, contact 577-5893.

## Super Bowl XLI

On Feb. 4 the Oasis Club will be hosting Super Bowl XLI, starting at 2 p.m. With a \$5 all you can eat buffet, drink specials, prizes and games. Remember as an MCLB patron you are eligible to sponsor a friend to attend this event. For more information, contact 577-5893.

All Marine Trial Camps 2007 Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune Semper Fit Sports will host these three All Marine Trial Camps: All Marine Men's Boxing, All Marine Women's Basketball, and All Marine Men's Wrestling.

The camps are designed to select the best of the best in each of the respective sports.

Upon completion of the All Marine Trial Camp, those Marines selected to the All Marine Team will represent the United States Marine Corps at the Armed Forces Championship which pits teams from the different armed services against each other to determine the ultimate champion.

All Marine Trial Camps will be held as follows: All Marine Boxing Trial Camp, Feb. 9 - March 4; All Marine Women's Basketball Trial Camp, Feb. 16 - March 9; and All Marine Wrestling Trial Camp, Feb. 12 - March 20. All trial camps will be held aboard MCB Camp Lejeune.

All parties interested, must submit a resume prior to the following dates: All Marine Boxing Trial Camp, Jan. 31; All Marine Women's Basketball Trial Camp, Feb. 9; and All Marine Wrestling Trial Camp, Feb. 2. Resume/Sports Applications must be endorsed and approved for higher competition if qualified/selected by the command. Resume and sports applications must include level, years of expe-

rience, and if applicable, amateur record. Forms must be turned into the Varsity Sports office for endorsement by the Athletic Director prior to submission.

Marines should be made available for all events to which they are selected. For more information about the event, contact Dennis Rautmann at 910-451-2710 or via e-mail at rautmannd@usmc-mccs.org.

# Valentine Dinner Dance

The Oasis Club will be hosting a Valentine Dinner Dance on Feb. 14 from 6 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$40 per couple, which includes choice of prime rib or chicken dinner, bottle of champagne and a live band with dancing. The CDC will also be available to provide child-care to all current CDC patrons at no charge. Lots of extras, flowers, candy and a chance to win a weekend trip for two. Reserve your tickets today by calling 577-5893.

## Family Dining Night

Featured every Thursday at the Oasis Club. Make Family Dining Night a traditional night out, and let us do the dishes! Upcoming menu:

Tonight - Taco Night

Feb. 1 - Mongolian Barbeque

Feb. 8 - Ham and Potatoes

For more information, contact the Oasis Club at 577-6432.

## LUNCH MENU

# **Family Restaurant**

**Today** - Baked potato and salad bar, roll, plus any fountain drink.

**Friday** - Breaded hoki fish, macaroni and cheese or steamed rice, vegetables and a roll.

**Monday** - Chicken tenders, regular or seasoned fries, fruit cup and a roll.

**Tuesday** - Beef meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, vegetables and a roll. **Wednesday** - Hot open faced turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes with gravy, vegetables and cranberry sauce.

**Salads and Sub Sandwiches** - A variety of pre-made daily items are available in the front display refrigerator.

## **Lanzer's Lounge**

Today - Chicken Breast and Potato salad.

Friday - Catfish Sandwich and coleslaw.

Monday - Salisbury Steak.

Tuesday - Beef meat loaf.

Wednesday - Pork super ribs and cole-

**MISC** For Sale; Solid Wood Fireplace, ventless, Mahagony with attached book shelves, uses Jel Fuel, has logs and screen. Call: 253-5926

**MISC** Solid Wood Fireplace, ventless, Med Cherry with doors in side cabinet, has two matching book shelves. Uses Jel Fuel, has logs and screen. Call: 253-5926

**HOMES FOR RENT** 2 bed/1.5 baths, fenced yard, lots of trees, fresh paint, new stove top, Quiet. Pets negotiable. \$500/mo w/ \$500 deposit. Call: 760-257-1091.

**MISC** 32" LCD flat screen television, HDTV ready, stereo sound speakers. Call: 253-5926

**MISC** Two computer monitors and a Digital Camcorder. Call: 760-256-2434.



